

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicant thanks the Examiner for the acknowledgement of allowable subject matter in claim 6,

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Pelhos et al. (U.S. 2004/0115481). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection because the cited reference does not disclose (or suggest) first and second seed layers on a substrate of a magnetic recording medium that are both formed of the same material, and that the grains of one of the seed layers is tilted from normal to the surface of the substrate, as in claim 1 of the present invention.

Pelhos discloses a magnetic storage medium 38 having a first seed layer 44 and a second seed layer 46 on a substrate 40. (See Fig. 3). On the second seed layer is formed a magnetic material layer 48. Pelhos teaches that the grains of both the first layer 44 and the second seed layer 46 are tilted. (See paragraphs [0043]-[0044]). Pelhos, however, does not teach to form the first and second seed layers 44, 46 of the same material. In fact, Pelhos teaches away from such configurations. Pelhos teaches to form a first seed layer 44 of NiFeCr, NiFe, or Ta, for example (see paragraph [0041]), but to form the second seed layer 46 from Ru (see paragraph [0046]).

In contrast, claim 1 of the present invention recites, among other things, that the first and second seed layers are formed of the same material. This feature of the present invention renders the present invention patentably distinct from Pelhos, which teaches different materials for its first and second seed layers, as described above. Accordingly, for

at least these reasons, the rejection of claim 1, and its dependent claims 2-5, based on Pelhos is respectfully traversed.

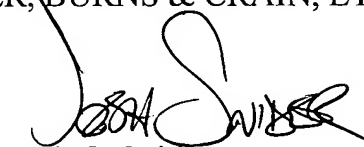
Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pelhos in view of Fujimaki et al. (U.S. 2003/0228496). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the reasons discussed above traversing the rejection of independent claim 1 based on Pelhos alone. Similar to claim 1, claim 7 also recites that the first and second seed layers are formed of the same material. Fujimaki is cited only for teaching an actuator, but not for tilted grains of seed layers, or at least two such seed layers formed of the same material. Accordingly, for at least these reasons, the Section 103 rejection of claim 7 based on a combination of Pelhos and Fujimaki is also respectfully traversed.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that this Application, including claims 1-7, is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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